

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAЕ-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01

OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 /089 W

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R 081115Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5756

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISTANBUL 0045

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, TU

SUBJ: DISPUTE OVER TURKISH PRICE FOR CRUDE OIL IMPORTS

REF: (A) ISTANBUL 3432 (NOTAL); (B) ANKARA 9886 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: MOBIL OIL HAS RECEIVED NO REPLY TO DATE FROM GOT CONCERNING MOBIL'S SUSPENSION OF IMPORTS OF CRUDE (REFTELS). MOBIL TURK GEN MGR CASANOVA SAYS ATAS REFINERY WILL BE DOWN TO ABOUT 50 PER CENT PRODUCTION WITHIN NEXT SEVERAL DAYS. COMPANIES HOPE TO BE ABLE KEEP REFINERY OPERATING AT THAT LEVEL THROUGH USE OF LOCAL PRODUCTION OF SHELL AND MOBIL OIL. END SUMMARY

1. CASANOVA TOLD CONGENOFF THAT COMPANY CONTINUES ITS EFFORTS TO PERSUADE GOT MINISTERS OF MERITS OF COMPANY'S CASE. HE HOPES TO SEE MINSTATE BAYKARA, WHO PLAYS LARGE ROLE IN ECONOMICS AFFAIRS, SOME TIME THIS WEEK. HE HAD EARLIER BRIEFED FORMER PRIMIN NAIM TALU WHO TRYING TO BE HELPFUL WITH GOT.

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2. CASANOVA SAID LAST SHIPMENT OF CRUDE BY MOBIL WAS ON DEC.26.

BP HAD BROUGHT IN SMALL SHIPMENT SEVERAL DAYS AGO BUT NO MORE IS NOW SCHEDULED. SAID ATAS REFINERY WHICH OWNED JOINTLY BY MOBIL, SHELL AND BP, WOULD BE DOWN TO 50 PER CENT CAPACITY IN FEW DAYS. COMPANIES HOPE TO KEEP IT OPERATING AT THAT LEVEL BY USING LOCAL PRODUCTION OF BOTH SHELL AND MOBIL. HE SAID MOBIL PRESENTLY HAS ABOUT TWO MONTHS' INVENTORY OF WHITE GOODS (GASOLINE, ETC.) BUT ONLY TWO TO THREE WEEKS' FUEL OIL. FOR THIS REASON, MOBIL HAS BEEN INFORMING ITS LOCAL CUSTOMERS THAT IT WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO SUPPLY FUEL OIL. MOBIL OFFICIALS HERE DO NOT ANTICIPATE IMMEDIATE SHORTAGE BUT PREDICT THERE COULD BE FUEL OIL SHORTAGES IN NEXT FEW WEEKS DEPENDING ON INVENTORIES HELD BY OTHER TWO REFINERIES. GASOLINE SHORTAGES, IF ANY, WOULD NOT BE LIKELY TO OCCUR FOR ANOTHER 6 TO 8 WEEKS. THEY NOTED THAT RECENT ACTION BY GOT DELAYING THREATENED STRIKES AT IPRAS AND ALIAGA REFINERIES WOULD HELP EASE SITUATION.

3. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT REDUCED LEVEL OF OPERATION AT ATAS NOT LIKELY TO EFFECT OVERALL SUPPLY SITUATION FOR AT LEAST SEVERAL WEEKS, IF THEN, THUS GIVING GOT ADDITIONAL TIME WITHIN WHICH TO FORMULATE ITS RESPONSE TO THE COMPANIES.

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